

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 12 and 33 in accordance with the following:

1-11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lithium battery comprising:

a generation element which generates electrical power;

a can which houses the generation element and which has a first surface and a second surface, the first surface comprising a first terminal electrically connected to the generation element and the second surface comprising a second terminal electrically connected to the generation element; and

a lead unit, ~~external to the can,~~ which electrically connects the first terminal and the second terminal through a safety device, disposed at an exterior of the lithium battery, and having a lead plate with one end disposed at the first surface and another end disposed at the safety device.

13. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the can comprises a first material and the lead plate comprises the first material.

14. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 13, wherein the lead unit further comprises another lead plate electrically connecting the safety device and the second terminal, the another lead plate comprising a second material other than the first material.

15. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 12, further comprising a safety vent which exhausts internal gas when pressure inside the can increases past a predetermined level, the safety vent being at the second surface of the can.

16. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 15, wherein:

the can further comprises an opening through which the generation element is introduced into the can, and a cap which closes the opening, and
the safety vent is disposed on the cap.

17. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the safety device interrupts current flowing therethrough when a voltage of the battery sharply increases.

18. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 17, further comprising a protecting circuit which prevents overcharging and over discharging and which is electrically connected by the lead unit between the safety device and the second terminal.

19. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 18, wherein the lead unit further comprises another lead plate that electrically connects the safety device and the protecting circuit and which comprises the second material.

20. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 19, wherein the lead unit further comprises a third lead plate electrically connecting the protecting circuit and the second terminal.

21. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 13, wherein the can comprises a first material, the one end of the lead plate comprises the first material, and the other end of the lead plate comprises a second material other than the first material.

22. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 21, wherein the one end of the lead plate further comprises a first layer comprising the second material, and a second layer of the first material disposed between the first layer and the first surface of the can.

23. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 22, wherein the second layer contacts the first terminal.

24. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 22, wherein the other end of the lead plate comprises the first layer of the second material and the first layer contacts the safety device.

25. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 22, wherein the lead unit further comprises an input lead of the second material and which connects the safety device and the other end of the lead plate.

26. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 24, wherein the safety device interrupts current flowing therethrough when a voltage of the battery sharply increases.

27. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the lead plate is attached to the first surface using ultrasonic welding.

28. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the lead plate is attached to the first surface using resistance welding.

29-32. (CANCELLED)

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lithium battery comprising:
a generation element which generates electrical power including a positive electrode and a negative electrode;
a can which houses the generation element and which includes a first terminal electrically connected to one of the positive and negative electrodes and a second terminal electrically connected to the other of the positive and negative electrodes;
a safety device, disposed at an exterior of the lithium battery, to sense at least one of a temperature inside the can or a voltage inside the can; and
a lead unit, ~~external to the can~~, which electrically connects the first terminal, the safety device, and the second terminal in series, wherein the safety device prevents a flow of current between the first and second terminals when the at least one of the temperature inside the can or the voltage inside the can increases beyond a predetermined temperature or voltage, respectively.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lithium battery according to claim 33, wherein the lead unit comprises:
a first lead electrically coupled to the first terminal and to the safety device at first and second respective ends thereof; and
a second lead electrically coupled to the second terminal and to the safety device at first and second respective ends thereof.